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STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK

13 April 2010

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at the Community Room at Edythe K. Richmond Community Building in Pawcatuck. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Ms. Tessa Getchis, and Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Banister to accept the minutes of the 1 February 2010 meeting. Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion, which was approved with exception of Ms. Getchis who abstained.

A review of the minutes of the 1 March 2010 meeting was tabled, as a quorum was not present to vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Banister to accept the minutes of the 22 March 2010 meeting. Ms. Getchis made a second to the motion, which was approved with exception of Mr. Raffo who abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

An email dated 12 April 2010 was sent from Mr. Murphy to Mr. David Kozak of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection re: value of shellfish/shellfisheries in Wequetequock Cove.

BUSINESS

1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*

- a) Area A, Area B and Outer Quaimbaug Cove were closed 1-4 March, open 5-12 March, and closed again from 13-31 March.
- b) Mr. Murphy and Mr. Motherway took two sets of shellfish meat samples from Area A that proved to be at within acceptable levels. All "conditional" areas were opened on 10 April 2010, but "approved" areas remained closed at the direction of the DA/BA as samples were not yet taken in those areas due to the lack of commercial activity.
- c) A motion was made by Mr. Banister to allocate funds in the amount of \$348.00 to print shellfishing brochures and permits. Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- d) A motion was made by Mr. Raffo to allocate funds in the amount of an additional \$3000.00 to restock the conditional shellfishing areas. Mr. Banister made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- e) A motion was made by Ms. Getchis to allocate funds in the amount \$ 134.21 for two years of website hosting services via GoDaddy.com. Mr. Banister made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.

2) *Enforcement / Equipment*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that the shellfish boat is in the water at the Wadawanuck Club dock. A bill will be forthcoming for de-winterizing and conditioning for this season.
- b) A motion was made by Mr. Banister to allocate funds not to exceed \$250.00 to purchase miscellaneous equipment for the shellfish boat. Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3) *Dock Applications*

- a) An application by William Forster to build dock at property on Masons Island. The Commission has no comments on the project.
- b) An application by Gwenmore Marina to conduct dredging and install a fixed pier, ramp and floating docks in the Mystic River. The Commission has no comments on the project.

4) *Scallop Enhancement Project in Little Narragansett Bay*

- a) Mr. Banister reported that he and Mr. Murphy met with Chris Littlefield and Jules Opton-Himmel of The Nature Conservancy to discuss the fate of the project. Mr. Murphy offered to return the remaining funds as a source of adult scallops could not be secured for this season's effort. There was discussion about an oyster restoration effort (no-harvest allowed), however, this was not a priority of the commission. The group discussed purchasing small (15mm) seed and attempting to overwinter, and then broadcast or sell the animals. The Commission and TNC are looking into a seed source. Potential sources include Karen Rivara (Aeros Cultured Oyster) and Geoff Denham (Sargent's Cove). TNC also suggested using a regional approach to scallop enhancement and possibly collaborating with the towns of Groton, Waterford and East Lyme. Discussion tabled for another time.
- b) Mr. Murphy is going to check to determine whether or not the Stonington Yacht Club obtained permits to hang shellfish gear from the former Garbo dock in the Borough.
- c) Mr. Banister mentioned that the Yacht Club has a summer marine education program and the Commission could consider asking if the students would wish to be involved in the project.
- d) TNC used half (\$10,000) of the total grant funds for purposes other than this project, which leaves the remaining funds at approximately \$1557.
- e) Mr. Murphy reported that Mr. Prescott of Save the Bay recently surveyed a portion of Little Narragansett Bay to determine the presence/absence of bay scallops and did find some scallop populations. Mr. Murphy is going to ask for more details and inquire about a possible survey in Connecticut waters.

5) *Summary of Commercial Activities*

- a) Mr. Theiler sent an email stating that he has tried with little success to harvest clams in Stonington waters. He is modifying the equipment and methods, but will focus on lobstering for the time being. No activity to report this month.

NEW BUSINESS

none

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Banister made a motion to adjourn the 13 April 2010 meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission. Mr. Raffo made a second, which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tessa Getchis, Acting Secretary